

Happy New Year!



Insight Heritage is 'legal right of everyone'

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Good Morning! It's Wednesday, January 1, 1975

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Adoption records seal the answers to mysterious past

By Debra Burgess
Missourian staff writer

Family Bibles often are filled with names of distant ancestors. A family's history and heritage are recorded for all descendants to read and be proud of. There are some persons, however, who never know their heritage; they never even know their natural parents' identity. Adopted children are surrounded with a mystery. Florence Fisher, an adoptee, says in "The Search for Anna Fisher" that "A person shouldn't be expected to live with mysteries. . . I felt I had a right to know everything there was to know about myself; I wanted to know — no matter what I found."

The main obstacle adoptees face in solving their mystery is a legal one. Adoption files and records are sealed by the state and can be opened only with a court order. Original birth certificates are sealed. When the adoption proceedings are complete, new certificates are issued by the state listing the adoptive parents as the only parents.

Adopting is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as taking into one's family the child of another and giving this child the rights, privileges and duties of a child and heir. Adoption is a relationship of parent and child that is established by law. It is primarily the means of creating parent-child relationships for homeless children.

Mrs. Joan Krauskopf, a University law professor, says the theory behind adoption is for a child "to have a home and a family just as good and just as solid" as if he had been a member of this family from the beginning of his life. She says that giving adoptees their natural parents' identity would not fit in with the philosophy behind adoption. Also, there would be a disrupting effect on all parties to the adoption (the natural parents, the adoptive parents and the adoptee) if adoptees were to gain the right to their natural parents' identity.

The sealed records are meant to insure the natural parents' right to privacy. They also are meant to insure the child's right to a secure childhood and the right of the adoptive families to build a new home without fear the child will be reclaimed later.

Adoption agencies have the policy of protecting all three parties to the adoption. Mrs. Cynthia Scholz, a family service worker for the Boone County Division of Family Services, says there is a conflict between the need of the adoptee to know about his natural heritage and the need of the natural family to remain anonymous.

Jerry Brewer, Boone County Welfare Director, says the harm that could be (See GROUP, p. 12)



The Columbia business district was engulfed in smoke last spring by a fire at the Broadway Woolworth store. The fire raged uncontrolled for hours. (Missourian photo by Larry Kasperek)

Prices, sex, crime headline '74

By Fred Meier
Missourian staff writer

There may have been shortages of gasoline, toilet paper, fertilizer and even paper clips in Columbia in 1974, but there was no shortage of news.

The energy crisis and inflation made an impact in the stores, at the gas stations and in the move for a substantial increase in city utility rates.

In local government, the city gained a new manager and sought to rid itself of a city judge. The voters generally preferred new faces to old.

The well-publicized tales of Roger Hines' 1001 Columbian nights were no match for the big city immorality which came to this country town in the form of the Vita-Life Health Spa.

And while pseudo-sex was going at a dollar a minute at the spa, college students doffed their duds for a free streak show in the streets.

More seriously, Columbia made progress on a new housing code and improvements in low-rent housing.

The Woolworth building was destroyed in a spectacular blaze.

And Columbia had its first bank robbery since 1937, only to have a second in three months at the same

bank, the latter followed by a chase and shooting in the streets.

In yet another major crime, a family was held hostage until police killed one kidnapper. Another suspect was arrested later.

Some of these events made their mark and faded. Others will make the news of 1975.

The energy crunch and inflation are, of course, among the continuing stories. Columbia began 1974 with a 100 per cent rise in the cost of gasoline and went on to see a 300 per cent rise in the cost of sugar.

Prices for these commodities seemed to drop slightly as the year ended. Pressure for an increase in water and light rates had not, however, abated.

The original proposal for rate increases came in July when the Water and Light Advisory Board, faced with fuel and labor cost increases, and a decrease in revenue, recommended that a 55 per cent increase in water rates and a 7.5 per cent increase in electric rates be included in the new Columbia budget.

The public protested immediately. The council wound up eliminating the electric rate increase and cutting the water increase to 35 per cent, but in-

creased the gross receipts tax on utilities by one per cent.

The utilities' problems are far from over, however, and City Manager Terry Novak considers further rate increases "inevitable."

Municipal Court Judge Roger Hines continues to occupy the news. If it was not the biggest local news event of the year, it was at least one of the most publicized.

Hines was convicted in August of assaulting Mrs. Roseanne Fowler, a girlfriend. Hines and Mrs. Fowler left

the courtroom arm-in-arm.

Hines troubles were far from over, though.

The council voted to suspend Hines Sept. 16. Hines requested a public hearing on his suspension. The hearing probably qualifies as 1974's biggest anti-climax.

Shortly before the second session was to have begun, Hines' attorneys and city representatives agreed that the council would rescind its suspension and that Hines would, instead, voluntarily (See NO, p. 4)

1974: inflation-recession scenario; new year offers little hope relief

By Richard Hughes
UPI business writer

Americans ended 1974 with their standard of living eroded by the worst inflation ever, and hundreds of thousands lost their jobs in the worst recession since World War II.

Prospects for 1975 promised little to cheer about.

During 1974, prices rose 12.2 per cent overall. Certain commodities, such as sugar and oil, cut even deeper into pocketbooks, soaring 400 per cent.

In the last half of the year, a severe recession gripped the nation and by the New Year unemployment approached 7 per cent of the work force — more than 6.5 million persons, the worst in 13 years.

Layoffs in the auto, construction, appliance and textile industries reached depression levels.

And economists said Tuesday in year-end reviews that things would get worse in 1975 — at least until the beginning of an anticipated recovery toward the end of the year.

"We are starting 1975 in a less favorable position than a year ago at this time," the International Statistical Bureau said.

Inflation, unemployment, the energy crunch and international disturbances will continue to plague the economy, the bureau said.

"The way things look now," said Nat Goldfinger, director of research for the AFL-CIO, "there probably will be an 8 per cent unemployment rate by the summer, if not earlier. More workers are getting laid off. There is

a threat of widespread bankruptcies and even the threat of bank failures."

The recession, Goldfinger said, "is fast becoming the most prolonged and deepest recession since the 1930s."

Tilford C. Gaines of Manufacturers Hanover Bank of New York said, however, consumers could look forward to lower prices "within a few months." The lower prices will appear when recent reductions in raw materials reach the retail level, he said.

As 1974 ends and 1975 begins, there will be these developments:

—Starting New Year's day, middle and upper income workers get a 5.85 per cent cut in their take-home pay with resumption of Social Security withholding. For those from whom withholding was stopped when they reached 1974 limits late in the year, the additional money is a windfall.

—For the first time since the Great

Ratchford could be 'in trouble'

By Russell Barclay
Missourian staff writer

Three members of the University Board of Curators whose terms expire today probably won't be reappointed. Their replacement by Gov. Christopher S. Bond would mean that seven of the nine Curators would be his appointees.

None of the persons involved would speculate for the record Tuesday about the possible effect on University President C. Brice Ratchford of the changed composition of the Curators. But Chip Casteel, special assistant to the Governor, said, "It's no secret that Governor Bond and President Ratchford have had differences."

State Sen. Larry Marshall, R-Columbia, observed, "It's obvious that any time you have a change in the Board of Curators there will be a change in philosophy."

One official, who asked that his name not be published, went further. "Ratchford is probably in real trouble," he said.

Hugh Sprague, special secretary and legal adviser to Gov. Bond, noted that there have been economic conflicts between the governor and Ratchford. "Lately things have come to a boil," he said.

Sprague was referring to a brief meeting in December during which Bond denied three requests by Ratchford for a personal meeting with the governor's staff to defend the University's requested budget for 1975-76. The meeting came after a \$14 million reduction in the proposed budget by the State Coordinating Board for Higher Education, a body appointed by Bond to oversee the state's colleges and universities.

One well-informed Republican said he thinks Ratchford worked behind the scenes to help prevent Senate confirmation of F. William McCalpin. (See THREE, p. 12)

M.U. senior named queen for Cotton Bowl festivities

Kathryn Tenkhoff, 21, a University School of Journalism senior, was named the 1975 Maid of Cotton Monday night in Memphis. She will reign over today's Cotton Bowl festivities in Dallas.

Miss Tenkhoff, originally sponsored by her local Pi Beta Phi sorority chapter, was selected as one of 20 finalists from 300 applicants from among 13 cotton-growing states. This is the first year a Missouri woman has been chosen.

Tuesday, following two days of television interviews, Rotary luncheons, dinners, and speeches in

Memphis, she flew to Dallas to officially begin her duties. She will appear in today's Cotton Bowl Parade and be introduced at the Cotton Bowl halftime show.

Throughout the year, Miss Tenkhoff will travel in this country, Canada and Europe as a goodwill ambassador for the cotton industry. In preparation for this, she will go to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where she will be given a complete course in the production of cotton. In her travels, which will take her out of school for the coming term, she will also meet President Ford, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and present a fashion show for the Congressional wives.

Miss Tenkhoff is from St. Louis and was accompanied by her family to Memphis and Dallas for the festivities. Her father is a pharmacist.

She will receive a \$1,500 educational grant, a 1975 Ford Mustang II and a complete cotton wardrobe by Teal Trainer of New York.



Kathryn Tenkhoff
Cotton Bowl queen

No paper Thursday

The Columbia Missourian will not publish Thursday morning so that employees can spend New Year's Day with their families.

Publication will resume Friday morning.

You'd be better now if you imbibed early

If the crinkling of the newspaper pages is too loud for you this morning, our irresponsible columnist, Mike Royko, has some tips for you. He tells you, for instance, what you should have done last night.

To ease the discomfort, Royko advises, "Drink quickly. If you can do most of your drinking within the first hour of the party and then pass out, you will have regained consciousness and be well on your way

to recovery while others are still gadding about."

And Royko advises what to do today.

"Moaning helps. It doesn't ease the pain, but it lets you know that someone cares, even if it is only you."

These and other discomfiting thoughts appear today on page 10B. But turn the pages quietly, please.